THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Computerization of all the Subordinate Courts in the country is planned to be done over a period of 5 years in 3 phases. The first phase of the Scheme has been approved by the Government in February, 2007 and is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) at an estimated cost of Rs.442 crore. The implementation of the Scheme has started in all the States.

Judicial reforms

†*374. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring judicial reforms to check the increasing number of pending cases, complaints of corruption and the controversies regarding appointment of Judges; and

(b) whether Government would also consider to bring about reforms in appointment of Judges, extending the working hours and to make the language of courts and the Lok Adalat system more acceptable?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) With a view to check the increasing number of pending cases, the Government have taken the following measures, *inter-alia*, to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in the courts:–

- Review of the Judge strength in High Courts from time to time and prompt action for filling the vacancies.
- The term of 1562 Fast Track Courts, which were functional in the States as on 31.3.2005, has been extended for another five years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010.
- With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of civil cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended which, *inter-alia*, limits the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three.
- With a view to ensuring speedy disposal of criminal cases, appropriate changes have been made in the Code of Criminal Procedure through Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, *inter-alia*, introducing the concept of plea bargaining.
- Modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.

Government has also already introduced Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 in the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006. The Bill seeks to devise a suitable legislative framework for empowering a judicial forum to deal with complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts. As far as the District and Subordinate Courts are concerned, the respective High Courts are empowered to take cognizance of complaints against the members of the lower judiciary.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, with a view to make quick and less expensive justice accessible to the common man at the grass root level, Government has introduced a Bill to establish Gram Nyayalayas in the rural areas.

At present there is no specific proposal before the Government to bring about any change in the procedure of appointment of Judges, extending the working hours or the language of courts.

A large number of disputes have already been settled and are being settled regularly through Lok Adalat system. The people in general are being made aware of the utility and advantage of resolution of disputes through Lok Adalats,

Jobs for the physically challenged

*375. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are creating 1,00,000 jobs for the physically challenged. persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of physically challenged persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Budget Speech for the year 2007-08, Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced a scheme for reimbursing Government Share of Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for a period of 3 years to employers in the organized sector for providing regular jobs to Physically Challenged Persons.

(c) According to the survey on disabled persons conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization in 2002, only 26 per cent persons with disabilities were employed.

Grants to private sector for setting up of food testing laboratories

*376. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed for providing grants to private limited companies or non-Government bodies for setting up of food processing and testing laboratories;

(b) the details of guidelines, alongwith the steps being taken to set up world class food testing and quality control laboratories in Uttarakhand, in collaboration with the private sector;

(c) the names and the details of the food testing laboratories presently functioning in the State;